By the King.

1345

WHereas heretofore ſundry wayes haue been deuiſed, to redreſſe the diſorders among the Poſtes of this Realme in generall, and particularly to preuent the inconueniences, both to the publique ſeruice of the State, and the lawfull trade of the honeſt Merchants, by prohibiting, that no perſons whatſoeuer, ſhould take vpon them publiquely or priuately, to procure, gather vp, receiue, bring in, or carry out any Packets, or Letters, to, or from the Countreys beyond the Seas, except ſuch as ſhould be ſpecially allowed for that kinde of Seruice, or otherwiſe ſhould be able to ſhew ſufficient warrant for their Voyages, and diſpatches, vnder the hands of the Principall Secretaries of State, or of one of them, or any Ambaſſadour, or other ſufficiently authoriſed in that behalfe.

AND WHEREAS, for the better execution thereof, and reducing and ſettling that neceſſary Seruice into a certaine and conſtant courſe, it pleaſed Our late moſt deare and Royall Father, King IAMES of bleſſed memorie, by His Letters Patents, vnder the great Seale of England, to erect and conſtitute a ſpeciall and peculiar Office or place, to bee called, The Office of Poſt-maſter of England for Forreigne parts, out of the Dominions of His Maieſtie, His Heires and Succeſſours; And did thereby giue and grant to Our welbeloued Seruant, Matthew de Queſter, the ſayd Office or place, and did conſtitute and ordaine him to bee the Poſtmaſter of England for Forreigne parts, for the terme of his life: Giuing him power to doe, execute, and performe, all and euery thing and things incident thereunto, and to haue, vſe, and enioy ſuch Priuiledges, Authorities, Benefites, Allowances, Payments, Rewards, Rates and Emoluments, as were thereunto belonging or appertaining: All which, notwithſtanding, wee are informed, that diuers diſallowed perſons haue, and doe vſually intrude themſelues into the ſayd imployment of taking vp, receiuing, bringing in, or carying out of this Realme, of Letters and Packets, vnto, and from the parts beyond the Seas, out of Our Dominions, contrary to the true meaning of the ſayd Letters Patents, and of ſeuerall Declarations made, aſwell by Our ſayd moſt deare and Royall Father in his life time, as by the late Queene ELIZABETH, againſt that diſorder:

WEE HAVE therefore thought fit hereby to publiſh and declare Our owne Royall pleaſure and expreſſe Commandement, concerning the premiſſes, ſtraitly prohibiting all and ſingular perſon and perſons whatſoeuer, (other then the ſayd Matthew de Queſter, his Deputies, Seruants, or Aſſignes) directly or indirectly, to doe, execute, performe, or intrude themſelues to haue any imployment, in, or about any thing which ſhall, or ought to be done by him or them, without his Deputation, Licence, or Allowance, vpon paine of Our indignation and high diſpleaſure, and ſuch paines and puniſhments as may be inflicted vpon the offenders for contempt of this Our Royall Commandement.

OVR WILL and pleaſure therefore is, That the Lord Chamberlaine of Our Houſhold, the Lord Warden of Our Cinque Ports, and Our Secretaries of State, and euery of them for the time being, doe hereby take particular knowledge themſelues of this our pleaſure herein declared, and doe alſo cauſe publique notice to bee giuen thereof vnto all Merchants, both Strangers and others of Our Citie of London, and all others whom it may or ought to concerne, that neither they, nor any for them, doe hereafter take vpon them openly, or vnder hand, to imploy any diſallowed or diſauowed perſon in the carying of any their Letters or Packets, but to vſe and imploy therein onely Our ſayd Seruant Matthew de Queſter, Poſt-maſter of England for Forreigne parts, out of Our Dominions, or ſuch as ſhall bee found lawfully appointed or deputed by him for that Seruice: To which effect alſo, wee doe expreſſly will and command by theſe preſents, all Maiors, Sheriffes, Juſtices of Peace, Conſtables, Bayliffes, and all ſpeciall Commiſſioners, and more eſpecially all Searchers of Our Ports, and all other Our Officers and miniſters whereſoeuer, within their ſeuerall Juriſdictions and Offices, to make diligent ſearch for all Males, Bougets, and other cariages of all ſuch diſallowed Cariers, and Meſſengers, or other ſuſpected perſons, comming in or going out of this Realme with Packets or Letters: And all ſuch ſo diſcouered, to apprehend and ſtay, keeping them in ſafe cuſtody, vntill vpon view of their Writings, to be ſent vp to Our Priuie Counſell, it ſhall bee ſeene and aduiſed what ſhall bee further done with them.

Giuen vnder Our Royall Signature, at Our Palace of Weſtminſter, the twentieth day of Ianuary, in the third yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

HER MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE

God ſaue the King.

Imprinted at London by BONHAM NORTON, and IOHN BILL, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent MAIESTIE. ANNO 1627.

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